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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 649

By Davis (Cocke)

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend James B. Clark on his receiving the highest degree in Freemasonry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is James B. Clark of Newport, who was elected by the Supreme Council of Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in Washington to receive the 33rd degree, the highest degree in Freemasonry; and

WHEREAS, the honor recognizes Mr. Clark's outstanding service to his fraternity and his community; the Scottish Rite Masonry is a fraternal organization that uses drama to teach ethics, moral and spiritual standards, basic religious philosophy, and the American system of constitutional government; and

WHEREAS, this estimable humanitarian has assisted in such benevolent endeavors as providing needy children with shoes, hearing and speech therapy for preschool children, sick room equipment for the needy, and scholarships for college students; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clark is an active member of the Newport Masonic Lodge, Kerbela Shrine Temple, Newport Eastern Star, and Newport Lions Club; a highly respected leader among his peers, he previously served as President of the Cocke County Shrine Club and is County Membership Chairman for the Scottish Rite; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clark's laudable devotion to public service is evidenced by his position as a Newport City Councilman; as a member of the Army National Guard, he is one of the many patriotic Tennesseans who have volunteered to serve as citizen soldiers and stand ready to defend our state and nation whenever duty calls; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his community activities, Mr. Clark has earned the unbridled respect and admiration of his peers at Lenzing Fibers and Manes Funeral Home; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, he is a member of the Bluffton Church, where he lends his time and many talents to support the youth program; and

WHEREAS, James B. Clark is committed to promoting and maintaining the highest in family and community ideals; he is most grateful for the loving companionship he shares with his wife, Linda, and is the proud and devoted father of a daughter; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clark epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud James B. Clark for his dedication to the service of his fellow citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby join the family, friends, and community of James B. Clark in celebrating his professional and personal excellence and his ascension to the highest degree of Freemasonry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend to him our best wishes for much happiness and every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.